

REMARKS

As an initial matter, the Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for granting a telephonic interview on March 1, 2004. During this interview, the two new independent claims included in this amendment were discussed in light of the prior art of record.

In the Office Action, claims 1-38 were rejected as being unpatentable over the art of record. By way of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-38 have been cancelled, and claims 39-61 have been added. Accordingly, claims 39-61 are pending and are at issue. Of the claims at issue, claim 39 and claim 52 are in independent form.

As to claim 39 (and its dependants), Dummermuth (6,073,053) only shows one reflex function (a delay for a duration) that can be programmed for different *times* (see col. 4, l. 39 - col. 5, l. 17; and FIG. 3). Dummermuth does not show the ability to change the reflex *function* itself (e.g., from a comparison function to an edge detection function via firmware). Accordingly, claim 39 recites the limitation "the output module including firmware configurable with at least one of a first reflex function and a second reflex function."

As to claim 52 (and its dependants), the Dummermuth (6,073,053) system requires the central processor 12 to enable the reflex function via 70' (see col. 4, ll. 25-38; col. 5, ll. 18-27; and FIG. 3). Dummermuth does not show the ability to execute the reflex function without utilizing a controller. Accordingly, claim 52 recites the limitation "the output module being structured to execute the reflex function without utilizing a controller."

Attorney Docket No. 402 P 233
Serial No.: 09/903,899
Page 8

In view of the foregoing amendments, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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